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TITLE: Energy activated electrographic printing process

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US-CL-CURRENT: 430/124; 430/109.4, 430/126

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A process of printing an image using an electrographic printer and an energy reactive toner, comprising the steps of: a. preparing a toner comprising at least one compound comprising active hydrogen, at least one compound comprising at least one functional group which is capable of reacting with said active hydrogen, a reactive fusing agent, and at least one protecting agent that protects said toner by inhibiting a reaction between said at least one compound comprising active hydrogen and at least one compound comprising at least one functional group which is capable of reacting with said active hydrogen during storage and printing of said toner; b. supplying an electrographic printer with said toner; c. printing a portion of said toner by means of said electrographic printer onto a first substrate so that printed toner is present on said first substrate; and d. subsequently applying energy to said printed toner to remove protection provided by said protecting agent, and reacting said at least one compound comprising active hydrogen and at least one compound comprising at least one functional group which is capable of reacting with said active hydrogen, wherein said reactive fusing agent liquefies upon the application of energy to said printed toner and accelerates the reaction between said active hydrogen and said at least one compound comprising at least one functional group which is capable of reacting with said active hydrogen.

2. A process of printing an image using an electrographic printer and an energy reactive toner as described in claim 1, said toner further comprising a polyester resin that softens upon printing and binds said printed toner to said first substrate, wherein said polyester resin comprises active hydrogen and reacts with said at least one compound comprising at least one functional group which is capable of reacting with said active hydrogen upon removal of the protection provided by said protecting agent.

3. A process of printing an image using an electrographic printer and an energy reactive toner as described in claim 1, further comprising the step of transferring said printed toner from said first substrate to a second substrate when energy is applied to said printed toner to remove protection provided by said protecting agent, wherein the reaction of said active hydrogen with said at least one compound comprising at least one functional group which is capable of reacting with said